

Richard Miller Abstract

"After the American Century: Globalization, Justice and the Global Power Shift."

The rise of large industrializing countries, especially China, on waves of export-led growth and the decline of American power shape every major choice in international affairs. One vital moral question in responding to this global power shift is, "What policies toward China should a citizen of the United States support or oppose?" Some central answers ought to reflect China's current combination of great economic progress and widespread poverty. This combination makes current U.S. demands on China concerning trade, finance and climate change excessive but makes the mildness of the U.S. government's actions on human rights appropriate. Looking farther into the future, the foreign policy establishment in the United States seek to preserve U.S. preeminence in power as long as possible in the face of China's rise. But humane interests dictate accommodation to the rise of China that will hasten the loss of preeminence. In all of these ways, an American citizen has a political duty to promote the graceful decline of American power.